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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

LEO FAY, M.D., D.P.H.



AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

P. J. GOUGH, C.R.S.I.

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
FOR THE YEAR 1960



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Public Health Department,
St. Paul's House,
Taunton.

July, 1961.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report covering the year 1960.

As this is my last Annual Report I have taken the opportunity of reviewing some of the salient points of public health and the changes which have occurred therein during my ten years of office.

Thirty years ago when I first became Medical Officer to a Local Sanitary Authority, a Medical Officer's most important and indeed his heaviest task was preaching the gospel of good housing, good water supplies, and good sanitation to a reluctant and often disbelieving audience.

These efforts of the Public Health doctors have been so successful over the years that the converted are sometimes now even more enthusiastic than the convertors.

Public opinion, impressed by the results, is no longer lagging, and indeed is steadily raising its standards of communal health in all directions. The Medical Officer of Health is becoming less of a driving force and more of a guiding force; and more and more is being handed over to the technical officers.

Even in the control of infectious disease, the picture is changing, due to the variation in the incidence and severity of infectious disease, the dramatic results of wholesale immunisation, and the very substantial results of modern drug therapy.

All this, however, should not mean that the value and the essentiality of the Medical Officer of Health is diminishnig. The overall picture is still disquieting.

Sickness absenteeism shows no signs of abating, nearly all our hospitals have waiting lists and mental ill-health is at least as prevalent as ever.

These are matters of community as much as individual concern and therefore the community doctor, i.e., the Medical Officer of Health, faces a task which is as great a challenge as those which have been solved so successfully in the last century.

In conclusion may I pay a very sincere tribute to Alderman A. J. West, J.P., and the Public Health Committee for the unfailing help I have received, and the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officials throughout my ten years of office.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

LEO FAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1960.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	35,930
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1960 (according to the rate books)	...	...	...	...	...	10,517
Rateable value at the end of 1960	...	...	...	...	...	£546,264
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,200

TABLE A.

Year	Acreage	Population	Rateable value	Estimated product of 1d. rate
1920	1,390	24,031		
1921	2,015	23,219 (census)	£111,480	£394
		23,440 (estimate)	£118,565	£415
		After extension of the Borough		
1930	2,015	25,499 (estimate)	£171,092	£670
1931	2,015	24,195 (census)		
		25,710 (estimate)	£171,767	£680
1940	2,434	30,700 (estimate)	£228,106	£874
1950	2,434	34,710 (estimate)	£254,890	£1,012
1951	2,434	33,613 (census)		
		34,270 (estimate)	£259,534	£1,020
1952	2,434	34,600 (estimate)	£262,866	£1,035
1953	2,434	34,660 (estimate)	£266,654	£1,050
1954	2,434	34,820 (estimate)	£269,391	£1,060
1955	2,434	34,180 (estimate)	£271,569	£1,100
1956	2,434	34,050 (estimate)	£537,635	£2,050
1957	2,434	33,300 (estimate)	£494,257	£1,955
1958	2,581	35,850 (estimate)	£515,836	£1,988
		After extension of the Borough		
1959	2,581	35,860 (estimate)	£537,953	£2,160
1960	2,581	35,930 (estimate)	£546,264	£2,200
1961	2,575	35,178 (census)		
Intercensal increase 1,565			4.6%	
,, ,, Somerset County			9.6%	
increase in all urban areas England and Wales with population 30-40,000			10.4%	

The above table shews a slight increase in size, a marked increase in wealth (subject to inflation factors) and a comparatively small increase in population. When allowance is made for increased longevity and diminished infantile mortality it would seem that the increase in population over the last ten years is small.

In a town which is obviously busy and thriving, this result may be somewhat unexpected.

It is estimated that in 1950 9.3% of the population were under five years of age. In 1960 the estimated proportion of the population in this age group was 6.5%.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births, live legitimate	Male 257	Female 224	Total 481
Births, live illegitimate	Male 15	Female 14	Total 29
Births, still Legitimate	Male 8	Female 1	Total 9
Births, still illegitimate	Male —	Female —	Total —
Birth rate, total corrected by factor 0.99 per 1,000 population			14.31
Live	„	„	14.05
Still per 1,000 live and still births			17.64
illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.7
Deaths, Male 190	Female 240	...	430
Death rate, crude	...	...	11.97
corrected by factor 0.94	...	...	11.25
Deaths of infants under one year of age, Male 6, Female 9, Total			15
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births corrected by factor 0.94			
		Total	27.64
„	„	Legitimate	25.80
„	„	Illegitimate	1.87
Neo-Natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births			17.64
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	—

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—	3
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	12	5	17
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	11	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	19	24	43
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	4	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	14	50	64
Coronary disease, angina	37	36	73
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other heart disease	26	37	63
Other circulatory disease	9	12	21
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	11	17
Bronchitis	17	4	21
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	4	1	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	19	35
Motor vehicle accidents	5	3	8
All other accidents	2	3	5
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	1	—	1

TABLE B

Year	Deaths from all causes	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus No. of deaths	% of total deaths	Coronary disease, angina	% of total deaths
1951	416	11	2.6	35	8.4
1952	388	7	1.8	45	11.6
1953	409	9	2.2	38	9.3
1954	434	12	2.8	42	9.4
1955	434	8	1.8	57	13.1
1956	441	10	2.3	62	14.0
1957	449	10	2.2	56	12.5
1958	419	14	3.3	69	16.5
1959	360	9	2.5	56	15.5
1960	430	17	3.9	73	16.9

Cancer of the Lungs. The above figures shew an irregular but progressive increase in the number of deaths due to this cause and a very similar increase in the proportion of these deaths to the total of deaths from all causes. In each case 1960 shews a record high level. 30% of the deaths from cancer of the lung occurred in women. This is an unusually high proportion.

Coronary Disease, angina. The table shews a substantial and almost continuous increase in the deaths certified as due to this disease. Both in the actual number of deaths and its relation to deaths from all causes this mortality reached a new high level in 1960.

The incidence of deaths from other causes calls for little comment other than that diphtheria, whooping cough, measles and acute poliomyelitis have once again caused no deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1960

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Originally notified</i>	<i>Removed to I. Hospital</i>	<i>Corrected Numbers</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	14	4	14	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	26	—	26	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—							
Paralytic	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	271	2	271	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	15	—	15	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—							
Infective	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	—	4	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	5	—	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—							
Respiratory	...	...	...	5	—	5	3
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	1	—	1	—

Infectious disease, as shown by the above figures, was again extremely low.

282 babies under one year of age were immunised against whooping cough. This is 55 per cent. of the total annual live births, *i.e.*, 510.

TABLE C.
SCARLET FEVER

Year	No. of cases notified	No. admitted to Isolation Hospital	Percentage of cases notified removed to hospital
1951	25	11	44.0
1952	54	15	27.8
1953	53	8	15.1
1954	22	2	9.1
1955	29	4	13.8
1956	28	1	3.6
1957	15	3	20.0
1958	12	1	8.3
1959	28	5	17.8
1960	14	4	28.6

This table shews that the trend which was evident in previous decades has continued during the last ten years. The total numbers continue to fall, although somewhat irregularly, and the number requiring removal to hospital continues to be very low.

Scarlet Fever is a much less serious disease than it was 30 years ago. This could be due to (1) a diminished virulence of the haemolytic streptococcus concerned (2) an increased immunity level in the child population and (3) progress in environmental medicine. Undoubtedly the severe and crippling complications have been markedly reduced by modern drug therapy.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE.

During 1960 the following persons received a course of primary vaccinations:—

Young persons (aged 17 - 26 years)	...	...	...	178
Children (aged 6 months to 16 years)	...	...	...	493
Persons under 40 years	...	...	...	772
Persons over 40 years and priority groups	...	...	...	30
Total				<u>1,473</u>

In addition 4,194 persons, comprising all groups, received a third (reinforcing) injection.

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.60...	171 (176)	24 (27)
Number of new cases during the year ...	5 (7)	1 (3)
Number of deaths during the year ...	3 (2)	— (—)

(Figures in brackets are those of 1959)

WATER SUPPLY

The following notes are kindly supplied by the Council's Water Engineer, W. J. Wonnacott, Esq., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E. :—

The total amount of treated water delivered into supply during 1960 was 701,354,000 gallons together with free supplies amounting to 1,900,000 gallons. The total amount of water used for all purposes was 746,814,000 gallons. The River Otter supply yielded 329,219,000 gallons during the year and this represents 34.11% of the water available from all sources. The total rainfall recorded at Leigh Reservoir on the Blackdown Hills was 53.66 inches, whilst the rainfall at Clatworthy (Whites Farm) was 63.25 inches.

On the 22nd April, 1960, the Clatworthy Reservoir was full and overflowed on that day for the first time, and since that date has been consistently full. The capacity of this Reservoir has now been calibrated and the total is 1,180,000,000 gallons at 7½ feet above the lowest draw-off. The construction of this work was completed during the year.

The Maundown Filter Station works of construction have proceeded and should be completed in the summer of 1961. In order to obtain a limited supply the Corporation installed a temporary Candy Pressure Filter Plant and in July, 1960, this plant was put into service. Since that time 63,396,000 gallons of water have been filtered for partial water supplies to Taunton Corporation, Taunton and Williton Rural District Councils. Some trouble has been experienced in the operating of this plant and some complaints made of excess iron in the supply. This has been largely overcome during the last few months and on the bringing into use of the permanent plant the water will be satisfactorily treated.

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
25	—	8	—	213	—	16	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with during the year.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Architect, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor and the Housing Officer for the following tables :—

TABLE 1.

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1960		Programme for 1960	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
2,393	509	186	—

Houses required:—

To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	6
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions	...	...	...	...	...	807
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1960	...	...	...	...	...	936
Number of Council houses sold during the year	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE 2.

Details of Post-War Houses :—

				<i>Rent</i>
Temporary Bungalows	...	...	225	35/8
Permanent Bungalows	...	...	84	44/-
Woollaway Bungalows	...	...	1	44/-
Brick Bungalows	...	...	10	37/9
Bedsitting Room Flats	...	...	33	16/- - 15/6
Five bedroomed houses	...	...	8	50/-
Four bedroomed houses	...	...	44	48/2 - 45/7
Three bedroomed houses	...	...	1,279	45/- - 43/6 - 42/5
Two bedroomed houses	...	...	382	42/5 - 40/11
Two bedroomed flats	...	...	208	39/10-37/9 - 35/2 - 32/7 - 22/9
One bedroomed flats	...	...	80	33/8 - 31/7 - 27/5 - 22/3 - 17/1
Three bedroomed maisonettes	...	...	6	40/11
Two bedroomed maisonettes	...	...	15	39/10
			21,375	

Accommodation—Priorswood Place

Two bedroomed flats	...	...	2	40/- + rates
One bedroomed flats	...	...	2	37/6 + rates
Three bedroomed maisonettes	...	...	2	45/- + rates
Two bedroomed maisonettes	...	...	12	42/6 + rates
			18	40/- + rates

TABLE 3.

	Houses erected during 1960	In course of erection	Conversions
Local Authority ...	68	84	—
Private Enterprise	84	89	18

TABLE 4.

1.	Houses to be completed between 1st January, 1961 and 31st December, 1961	52
2.	Houses expected to be in contract between 1st January, 1961 and 31st December, 1961, but not completed	134
		<hr/> 186

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during year 1960 :—

Received		Approved		Rejected	
Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings
31(30)	33(36)	28(23)	38(23)	2 (1)	2 (1)

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Average cost per dwelling approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	£409

Standard.

Number of applications received	...	...	...	41
approved	...	...	...	38
Number of houses where Standard Amenities have been provided	...	...	...	33

The number of post-war houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1960, was 2,393 by the local authority and 509 by private enterprise.

During the period 1951-1960, 1,985 houses were built by the local authority and 426 by private enterprise.

Improvement grants (discretionary) were made to 174 applicants in respect of 189 houses.

In addition 49 standard grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, were made during 1959-60, which provided standard amenities in 39 houses. Under this Act house owners and certain lease-holders can obtain, as a right, half the cost up to a maximum of £155 of installing five basic improvements—a bath or shower, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system and a food store.

In the last ten years forty-seven houses included in five Clearance Areas, and four individual houses have been scheduled for closure or demolition as unfit for human habitation. Of these 24 were still occupied at the end of 1960. Four houses, scheduled before 1951, were still occupied and had been so occupied for periods exceeding ten years.

HEALTH SERVICES

Administered in Taunton M.B. by the Somerset County Council Ante-Natal Clinic

The blood test clinic for ante-natal cases is now held on the first and third Mondays in each month.

At these clinics a few ante-natal cases who have not booked a doctor to attend them are also seen.

The Clinic is staffed by the district midwives who see their own booked cases on second, fourth and fifth Mondays.

Hospital booked cases (Canon Street Maternity Home and Musgrove Park Hospital) usually attend ante-natal clinics at those hospitals and their own doctors.

Mothercraft Classes

These are held in the Health Centre weekly with a short break between each series of seven talks.

Classes for relaxation exercises and talks by a doctor, a health visitor or a midwife are given each time.

There is an average attendance of 25 to 30—slightly higher during the winter months.

The numbers attending have so increased that it has become necessary to divide into two groups, the talks being given to each group in turn while the other group is having relaxation exercises.

At the end of the series of classes an "any questions" forum is sometimes held, in which the midwives and health visitors take part. Films on subjects such as "bathing the baby" are also popular.

Premature Baby Service

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-time children a special service is provided for premature infants. If there is a risk that a child will be born after less than 37 or 38 weeks' gestation arrangements are made for the admission of the expectant mother to Musgrove Park Hospital, where special facilities are available and special equipment is provided where necessary.

Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to that Unit from the district and a special oxygenaire incubator arrives by ambulance to collect them.

If premature babies born at home can be nursed there, the district midwife can obtain special equipment for this and advice, if required, from the Area Nursing Officer who follows up all premature births.

During 1960, 32 premature infants were born in hospitals of whom five died; five were born at home, of whom one was removed to hospital. One died.

Home Visiting of Infants

This is carried out by five Health Visitors. Their work in 1960 included :—

First visits to children under one year of age ...	822
Total visits to children under five years of age...	11,514
Other visits (infectious diseases, old people, etc.)	644
	<hr/>
	12,980
	<hr/>

Child Welfare Centres

There are now three held in the town :—

Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

All Saints' Church Hall, Halcon, on Wednesday afternoons.

St. Peter's Church Hall, Priorswood, on Friday afternoons.

During 1960 the attendances of children at these centres totalled 7,982 including 526 new cases.

Immunisation of Children against Diphtheria.

Year	Total "Primaries" under 5 years	Live births of preceding year, i.e., "potential"	Percentage immunised	Total "Primaries" 5-14 years	Total reinforce- ments
1969	418	508	82.28	45	383

Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, provided by the Ministry of Food, are distributed at the Welfare Centres. In addition

valuable food accessories, such as certain proprietary brands of dried milk, breakfast cereals and rose hip syrup, are distributed to mothers and children by the voluntary workers of the Taunton Infant Health Society.

Orthopædic Clinic

This is held in the Health Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Surgeon attending twice a month. This service is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board but is administered on an agency basis by the Somerset County Council.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children was as follows :—

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—						
(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	...	1,483
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	457
						<hr/>
Total						1,940 <hr/>
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	...	1,242
(3) Number offered treatment	...	...	...	...	...	922
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	727
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment including ortho-						
dontic patients	...	...	...	...	...	1,743
(6) Half-days devoted to :—						
Inspection	12.	Treatment	208	...	...	220
(7) Fillings :—						
Permanent teeth	807.	Temporary teeth	81	...	...	888
(8) Number of teeth filled :—						
Permanent teeth	777.	Temporary teeth	78	...	...	855
(9) Extractions :—						
Permanent teeth	734.	Temporary teeth	985	...	...	1,719
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	...	636
(11) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	...	...	...	...	...	7
(12) Other operations :—						
Permanent teeth	147.	Temporary teeth	85	...	...	232

The treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children is shown below:—

					<i>Adults</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(1) Number of cases inspected	...	...	...	...	12	61
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	9	58
(3) Number of cases treated	...	...	...	...	4	52
(4) Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	25	97
(5) Administration of general anæsthetics	...	...	...	...	1	48
(6) Number of teeth extracted	...	...	...	...	12	94
(7) Number of teeth filled	...	...	...	...	1	10
(8) Number of fillings	...	...	...	...	1	12
(9) Scaling and gum treatment	...	...	...	...	1	1
(10) Silver Nitrate treatment	...	...	...	...	—	6
(11) Number of X-ray examinations	...	...	...	...	—	—
(12) Other treatment	...	...	...	...	5	12
(13) Dentures provided	...	...	...	...	5	—

The Day Nursery

This is situated at Victoria Park, East Reach, and is open each weekday except Saturdays and public holidays.

Accommodation is provided from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a maximum of 30 children.

The average daily attendance during 1960 was 24, the vast majority of the children on the register belonging to the Priority 1 group.

Home Help Service

This service is administered in the County Hall, Taunton.

During 1960, 275 Borough residents received assistance in their homes. These included the following types of cases:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	34
Old age	...	...	...	...	...	147
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	31
Post operative	...	...	...	...	...	9
Post and pre-natal	...	...	...	...	...	22
Child Care	...	...	...	...	...	4
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	...	13
Mental illness	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other cases	...	...	...	...	...	10

Seventy-two other cases in the old age and chronic sick group have received help from the service for over a year, some for as much as eleven years.

Ambulance Service.

The main Ambulance Station and Control for the South-West of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:—

Vehicles—5 Ambulances

4 Sitting-case Ambulances

1 Car

Staff— 1 Station Officer

4 Senior Drivers

15 Driver/Attendants

In addition, 2 reserve vehicles (1 ambulance and one sitting-case ambulance) are at present held at Taunton to be available for duty anywhere within the southern half of the county.

The following are the details of patients carried and mileage run by vehicles at the Taunton Station during 1960 :—

Vehicles		Patients carried	Mileage run
Ambulances	...	9,124	71,976
Sitting-case			
Ambulances	...	13,890	103,369
Cars	... ..	1,961	19,920

Except for the reserve ambulances all vehicles at this Station are fitted with radio.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1960

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1960.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing and General Sanitary Work

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts...	...	226
Re-inspections ... ..	...	261
Infectious diseases, in connection with ... ..	...	2
Factories ... ..	...	54
Drainage, in connection with ... ..	...	374
Rodent Control (excluding visits made by Rodent Operator)...	...	38
Moveable dwellings ... ..	...	67
Stables, piggeries ... ..	...	11
Offensive trades ... ..	...	14
Smoke observations ... ..	...	43
Verminous premises ... ..	...	142
Refuse disposal, in connection with ... ..	...	12
Shops ... ..	...	237
Interviews ... ..	...	269
Cinemas and places of entertainment ... ..	...	11
Miscellaneous sanitary visits ... ..	...	248
Pet shops ... ..	...	27
Rent Act ... ..	...	22
Old metal dealers ... ..	...	4

Housing Repairs

The work of repairs to houses is still being dealt with under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year the following work was carried out :—

Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	2
Cooking facilities provided	...	...	...	...	1
Damp proof courses provided	...	...	...	...	2
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	29
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	11
Roofs repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	54
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Dampness eradicated	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	39
Gullies renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired, relaid or cleared	...	...	...	...	39
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	7
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	3
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	...	3
Water heaters provided	...	...	...	...	1
Dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	15
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	11

Housing Act, 1957.

During the year Closing Orders were made on three basement rooms which were not regarded as being fit for human habitation.

An undertaking was accepted from an owner of a house to carry out a specification of works to render the house fit for habitation.

Complaints.

During the year 603 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters :—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	72
Drainage	...	...	...	...	75
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	183
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	115
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	44
Pests (Insects)	...	...	...	...	114

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954—Section 6

There are no houses occupied under this Section in the Borough.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24

During the year 21 sewers were found to be choked, and were cleansed by the Corporation. Sewers dealt with under this section are those that were maintainable by owners of property under previous Public Health Acts.

RENT ACT, 1957

During the year 2 applications for certificates of disrepair had been received, and in both cases undertakings given by the owners to carry out repairs were accepted.

VERMIN

During the year 77 premises were treated for various forms of insect pests with satisfactory results.

Rodent Control.

The Corporation's Rodent Operator continued the systematic search for rodents, and treatment of premises where infestation was found. The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatment at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	232
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	1,581
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	77
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	504
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	...	5
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	35
Survey visits	...	...	...	...	689
Wasps' nests destroyed	...	...	...	...	76
Beetles	...	...	...	...	1

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out to 4 houses.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Public Health Act, 1936

Offensive Trades—							
Tanners	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hide and Skin Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Moveable Dwellings—							
Sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Individual moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

The Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Registered Premises	9
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Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered under this Section							
...	12

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences to keep pet shops	4
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The conditions prevailing at the above premises during the year were found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

During the year 122 samples of the water at the St. James' Street Baths, taken at the inlet and outlet ends, were tested for residual chlorine. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION

Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods and food premises

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	513
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	401
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	130

Milk Supply

There are 13 registered dairies and 25 registered distributors of milk operating within the Borough. Three of the distributors operate from premises outside the Borough. Seventeen of the local

distributors hold licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, twenty-three hold licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and five hold licences to sell Sterilised Milk, whilst two of the distributors from outside the Borough hold supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, three for Pasteurised Milk, and one for Sterilised Milk.

There are two milk pasteurising plants operating within the Borough, but these are controlled by the Somerset County Council.

The function of issuing licences to dealers in graded milks will pass to the Somerset County Council on January 1st, 1961.

Sampling of Milk sold under Special Designations

During the year 34 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 63 samples of Pasteurised milk and 12 samples of Sterilised Milk being sold within the Borough were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these 29 of the Tuberculin Tested samples 61 Pasteurised and all the sterilised samples were reported as being satisfactory. Five samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 20 Pasteurised were reported as being unsatisfactory. Unsatisfactory samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for investigation.

Ice Cream

The registrations of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream are as follows :—

Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	2
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and sale	...	...	...	...	129

Sampling of Ice Cream

During the year, 47 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The results were as follows :—

					Hot mix	Cold mix
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	31	16
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	—	—
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	—	—
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	—	—

Food Inspection

As a result of inspection of food at foodshops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned :—

CANNED FOOD

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	238	tins
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	23	„
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	42	„
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	23	„
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	36	„
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	933	„
Fruit juice	...	...	...	...	...	51	„
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	117	„
Pcas	...	...	...	...	...	40	„
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	28	„
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	2	„
Other vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	13	„

OTHER FOODS

Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	14½	lbs.
Cooked Meat	...	...	...	...	...	23½	„
Wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	112	stones
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	20	lbs.
Cake	...	...	...	...	...	25¾	„
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	10	„
Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	7	lbs. & 6 jars
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	3	jars
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	49	lbs.
Cooking fat	...	...	...	...	...	6	pkts.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	4½	lbs.
Jellies	...	...	...	...	...	8	„
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	61	lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

During the year a prosecution was taken against a meat porter for failing to wear protective head covering whilst carrying meat. The case was proved and a fine of £2 was imposed.

During the year nearly 500 routine visits have been made to all types of food premises, and with very few exceptions a generally high standard of hygiene has been maintained. At ten premises there have been works of major reconstruction, and in each instance the Occupiers have been advised as to the best methods of meeting the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. At other premises there has not been the necessity to ask for very much in the way of new equipment or construction; but regular redecoration has been carried out as and when required.

Summary of works carried out at all premises in 1960

	Butchers & Fish- mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Green- grocers	Catering Establish- ments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of major reconstruction ...	2	—	1	3	4	10
Food Rooms.						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	—	—	—	—	3	3
Walls redecorated ...	4	2	1	6	12	25
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	1	—	—	—	2	3
Ceilings redecorated ...	1	2	1	6	12	22
Floors repaired or renewed ...	1	1	—	2	3	7
Improvement of lighting ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Improvement of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	3	3
Drainage renewed or repaired ...	—	—	2	1	3	6
Cleansing	—	—	1	—	—	1
Improved heating ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Equipment, Etc.						
New sinks provided ...	—	—	—	2	8	10
Hot water supply provided ...	—	—	—	2	3	5
New drainage boards provided ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preparation tables re-topped ...	—	—	—	—	3	3
New equipment, etc., provided ...	—	8	—	2	3	13
Dustbins provided ...	—	—	—	3	—	3
Means of protection of food pro- vided	2	2	1	—	—	5
New refrigerators provided ...	1	—	3	1	1	6
Sanitary Accommodation.						
New W.C.s or urinals installed ...	—	—	—	2	16	18
Sanitary accommodation repaired ...	—	—	—	2	6	8
Sanitary accommodation redecor- ated	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	1	1	1	2	—	5
Urinals cleansed	—	—	—	1	—	1
Toilet Accommodation.						
Wash-hand basins provided ...	—	—	—	—	8	8
Hot water supply provided ...	—	—	—	3	8	11
Toilet requisites provided ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redecoration of toilet accommoda- tion	—	—	—	—	—	—
Provision of locker accommodation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous.						
Protective clothing provided ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Treatments for vermin ...	—	1	—	2	—	3
Fly destruction units fixed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Provision of first-aid materials ...	—	—	1	1	—	2
Totals ...	13	17	12	43	99	184

Meat Inspection.

The slaughtering of food animals is carried on in two licenced slaughterhouses and a bacon factory.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,411
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,225

The inspection of the above carcasses revealed disease at set out in the following table :—

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep, Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	201	138	54	1,411	18,225
Number inspected	201	138	54	1,411	18,225
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	—	—	—	—	23
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	52	—	—	4	2,240
Percentage of number inspected * affected with disease other than T.B.	15.3%	—	—	28%	12.4%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses from which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercus Bovis</i> —					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses subjected to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

In addition, the following meat was condemned on butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	372 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	750 „

METEOROLOGICAL READING FOR 1960

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall			
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Max. Reading	No. of Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain fell	Days with 0.04in. or more	Max. Reading
January	29.91	30.53	29.20	41.29	55	23	41.75	6.0	16	2.74	18	10	.70
February	29.69	30.70	29.19	40.45	62	22	92.0	8.25	10	3.04	18	16	.56
March	29.77	30.27	29.05	44.48	60	30	90.75	8.0	10	2.38	15	11	.55
April	30.05	30.39	29.43	49.07	63	28	179.25	12.5	4	2.52	10	7	.92
May	30.04	30.32	29.64	55.32	73	35	204.0	14.5	3	1.43	13	6	.66
June	30.11	30.36	29.61	60.63	80	42	262.25	15.0	2	1.02	9	6	.35
July	29.88	30.19	29.47	60.66	73	42	179.25	12.75	1	3.53	25	15	.86
August	29.84	30.08	29.63	59.34	74	43	150.25	11.25	2	3.21	18	17	.63
September	29.92	30.40	29.41	55.87	72	38	113.75	9.5	4	3.63	20	12	1.10
October	29.58	30.19	29.18	50.78	65	29	74.5	7.75	10	10.66	25	21	.199
November	29.55	30.10	28.94	47.00	61	24	97.0	7.25	2	3.02	26	21	.42
December	29.73	30.33	29.18	37.45	55	24	49.25	5.5	12	3.58	19	16	1.0
TOTAL	29.84	—	—	50.17	—	—	1,634.0	—	76	40.76	216	138	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	6	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	239	42	9	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	12	6	—	—
TOTAL	278	54	9	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	9	9	—	2	—
TOTAL	14	14	—	6	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 110		Section 111	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel ...	391	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

